

Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 JUSE-00 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 SCI-06

OMB-01 DRC-01 /123 W

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R 092042Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9305

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

DEA HEADQUARTERS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4007

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, SNAR

SUBJECT: GOC DENIES INVOLVEMENT ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL OR
DIPLOMATS IN NARCOTICS TRAFFIC

CARACAS FOR BARO

REF: SANTIAGO 3914

1. SUMMARY. GOC IS DENYING THAT MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE INVOLVED
IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING TO THE US, AS INDICATED IN JOINT CHILEAN
EMBASSY WASHINGTON AND DEA RELEASE. IT SEEMS IMPROBABLE,
HOWEVER, THAT TRUE STORY CAN BE HIDDEN FOR LONG. WHEN REVEALED,
GOC WILL HAVE SUFFERED MAJOR CREDIBILITY BLOW. END SUMMARY.

2. STORIES BASED ON JOINT PRESS RELEASE OF CHILEAN EMBASSY
WASHINGTON AND DEA PLUS WIRE SERVICE REPORTS CONCERNING ARREST
OF 22 CHILEANS IN US INCLUDING MEMBER NAVAL ATTACHE OFFICE AND
WIFE FOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING HAS BROUGHT SHARP PUBLIC
REACTION FROM GOC.

3. IN PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 8 UNDER SEC INTERIOR COL ENRIQUE
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MONTEROS MARX DENIED THAT ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL ARE INVOLVED

IN TRAFFICKING, AND STATED THAT RECALL OF FIVE EMBASSY PERSONNEL (REFTEL) NOT RPT NOT CONNECTED WITH NARCOTICS CASE. HE THEN WENT ON, HOWEVER, TO SAY THAT EDUARDO DIAZ OF NAVAL ATTACHE STAFF CHILEAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON, NAMED IN STORIES, IS NOT RPT NOT "REGULAR MEMBER" OF NAVY. REST OF CONFERENCE COVERED HISTORY OF MARXIST DRUG TRAFFICKING UNDER ALLENDE, AND EXPULSION OF 19 TRAFFICKERS TO US BY GOC. MONTEROS STATED GOC HAS "AGREEMENT" WITH US THAT US WILL TURN OVER TO GOC ON REQUEST ANY OF THOSE (PRESUMABLY CHILEANS) DETAINED ON DRUG CHARGES IN US.

4. COMMENT. BY MONTEROS' OWN ADMISSION "ARMED FORCES PERSONNEL" WERE INVOLVED IN THIS CASE, AND CONTRARY TO SANTIAGO PRESS STORIES CHILEAN DIPLOMATIC POUCH AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT WERE UTILIZED. AS OF MOMENT FOURTEEN CHILEAN NAVY PERSONNEL UNDER ARREST AND ONE FACH OFFICER BEING INTERROGATED IN CONNECTION WITH CASE, AND MORE ARRESTS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL APPEAR POSSIBLE. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT FACTS CAN BE SUPPRESSED, AND MOST OF STORY WILL EVENTUALLY SURFACE EVEN IN CHILE. DETERMINATION TO PROTECT NAME OF ARMED FORCES ABOVE ALL MAY THEREFORE BACKFIRE INTO MAJOR CREDIBILITY PROBLEM FOR GOC.

5. AT EMBASSY'S FOURTH OF JULY RECEPTION HIGH-RANKING OFFICERS INCLUDING PRES PINOCHET HIMSELF EXPRESSED CONCERN AND DISPLEASURE OVER RELEASE OF NEWS IN WASHINGTON. THEY OBVIOUSLY FELT GOC HAD COOPERATED FULLY IN BREAKING CASE AND ANY PRESS RELEASE SHOULD HAVE SPARED THE MILITARY.

6. CHILEAN AMB TO US WALTER HEITMANN ARRIVED IN SANTIAGO JULY 8, EVIDENTLY TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER AND PROBABLY ALSO RECALL OF FIVE EMBASSY PERSONNEL UNRELATED TO NARCOTICS CASE. POPPER

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